

**DATE:** January 23, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank Update

During December and early January construction has focused primarily on the following:

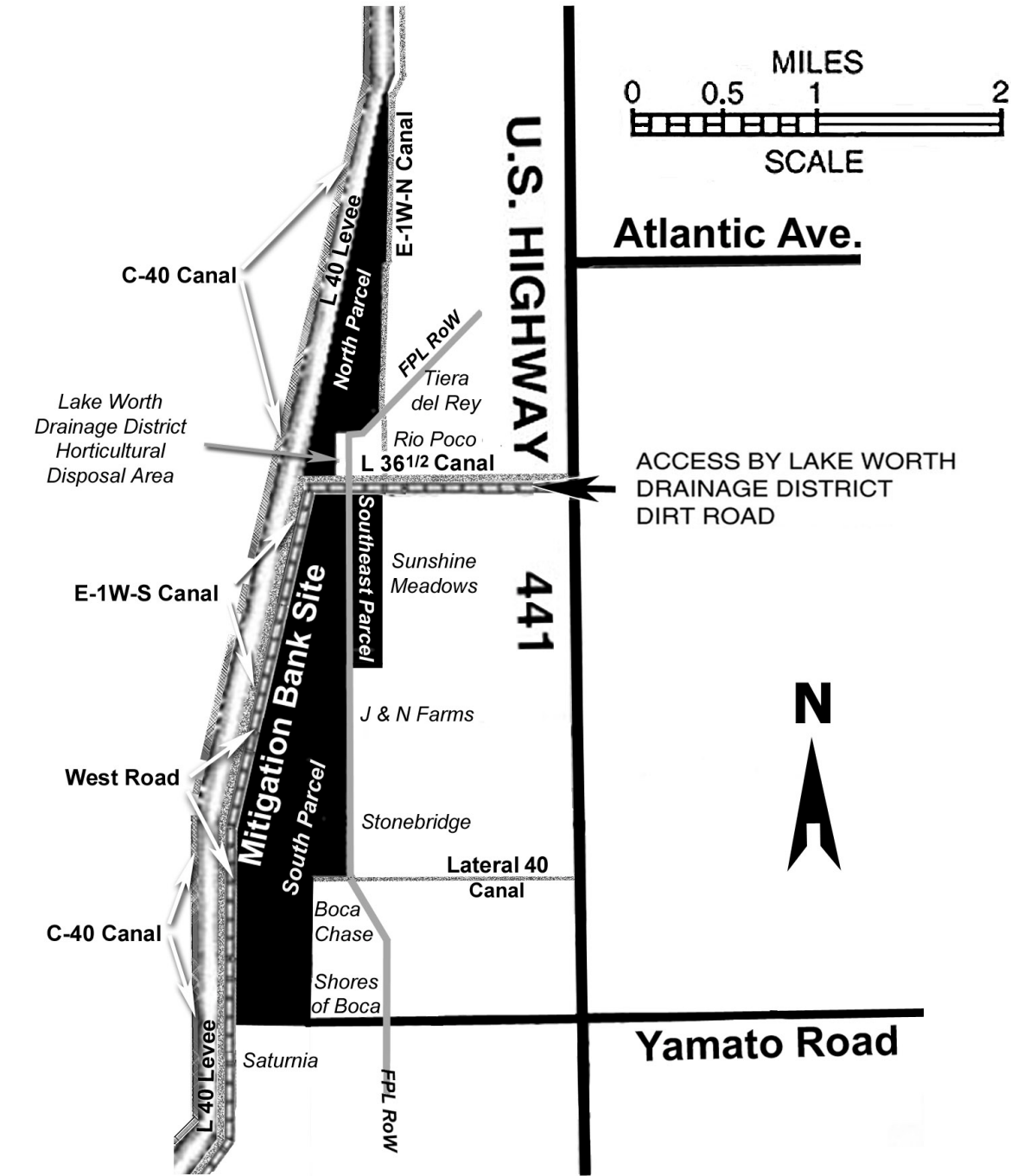
1. Composite Berm: completion of 100% of the cap on the North Parcel berm.
2. The South Parcel inundation target was met in early October when the water level reached elevation 16' +/- . Supplemental pumping occurred through mid-December to maintain this level. The Brazilian Pepper is showing significant stress. We are continuing the inundation pumping, possibly extending through March, in order to achieve the desired level of eradication of the Pepper.
3. Completing installation of revetment in the by-pass canal from the 72" culvert structure south to the 84" culvert structure.

The status of the project and upcoming plans during the first quarter of 2003 include:

- The construction work at the site is substantially complete. During January and February, surveyors will be on the site to support preparing the as-built drawings.
- Surveyors also will be resetting property lines to support delineation of the narrow buffer areas to the outboard sides of the South Parcel. This will include areas north of Saturnia, and west of The Shores and Boca Chase. We will use these reset property lines for vegetation control (mowing and eradication of undesirable exotic plants). North of Saturnia, we will also re-establish access control.
- The completed mudflat and internal open water areas in the South Parcel are now providing habitat to shorebirds, white and glossy ibis, snowy egrets, woodstorks and limpkins. These areas have been subject to the inundation that is in progress.
- Winter season ecological monitoring will be performed in January and February for all areas of the Bank site.
- We are planning a general eradication sweep in the North Parcel during February, and at this time we will be eradicating the internal fringe of the South and Southeast Parcels for plants that are not succumbing to the inundation due to slightly elevated ground surfaces.

- Periodic maintenance of berms, canals and other structures and features will be performed at the site on an as needed basis over the long term.
- Regular security monitoring continues in the night and weekend hours because pumping water into the South Parcel to inundate and kill Brazilian Pepper continues. We are evaluating the need for continuing this private service. SFWMD staff is also coordinating with their security officers and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to evaluate how to augment this surveillance.
- Gates have been installed at the all access points to the Mitigation Bank lands as required by our permits.

Because the intense construction work at the site is complete, going forward I will apprise you on a quarterly basis of further updates on activities at the Bank site. The South Florida Water Management District and Foster Wheeler Environmental truly appreciate the positive participation and interest shown by our neighbors and other stakeholders during this past year. For other information on the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank, please access the website located at: [http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lcd/mit\\_bank\\_lox.html](http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lcd/mit_bank_lox.html). You may contact me at 561-682-6104 or [mmoore@sfwmd.gov](mailto:mmoore@sfwmd.gov) if you have questions.



## Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank and Surrounding Landmarks and Features

Loc map2.tif  
April 22, 2002